

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of a treating systemic lupus erythematosus in a patient that has systemic lupus erythematosus comprising:

administering gene-modified T cells, said T cells originating from said patient and having been gene modified by treating them with antisense ~~having suppressed expression~~ of cAMP response element modulator (CREM) plasmid, to said systemic lupus erythematosus patient, thereby increasing the expression of IL-2.

2.- 9. (cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method of treating ~~a patient with~~ systemic lupus erythematosus in a patient having systemic lupus erythematosus comprising:

- a) removing lymphocytes from a said patient ~~having systemic lupus erythematosus~~;
- b) leukopheresing said lymphocytes;
- c) transfecting said leukopheresed lymphocytes with plasmid vectors containing anti-sense cAMP response element modulator; and
- d) re-infusing said transfected lymphocytes into the patient.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said antisense cAMP response element modulator, is α -antisense cAMP response element modulator that prevents CREM mRNA from being transcribed and forming CREM protein.

12.-14 (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) The method of treating ~~a human patient having~~ systemic lupus erythematosus in a patient that has systemic lupus erythematosus comprising

administering ~~said~~ T cells that have decreased cAMP response element modulator mRNA to said patient.

16-28 (cancelled)

29. (new) A method of treating T cells from a systemic lupus erythematosus patient comprising:

removing said T cells; and

treating said T cells with antisense cAMP response element modulator (CREM).

30. (new) A method of treating lymphocytes from a systemic lupus erythematosus patient comprising:

a) removing said lymphocytes from said patient;

b) leukopheresing said lymphocytes;

c) transfecting said leukopheresed lymphocytes with plasmid vectors containing anti-sense cAMP response element modulator to stop the expression of cAMP response element modulator.